

## House Resolution No.

**Whereas**, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives welcome with pleasure the opportunity to recognize a remarkable Missouri citizen whose efforts and accomplishments have made him a source of inspiration to all those around him; and

**Whereas**, John L. Morris, founder and owner of Bass Pro Shops in Springfield, Missouri, was chosen as a recipient of the Retail Innovator of the Year Award, a most impressive accolade bestowed upon him by the National Retail Federation during the 2008 Annual Convention and EXPO on January 15, 2008, in New York City; and

**Whereas**, the Retail Innovator of the Year Award coincides with Bass Pro's thirty-fifth year in business and the thirtieth anniversary of Tracker Marine, a boat manufacturing company also owned by John Morris; and

**Whereas**, Bass Pro Shops started with one store in Springfield and now has forty-seven stores nationwide, with additional stores to open in the future; and

**Whereas**, John Morris began selling bait and fishing supplies in the Brown Derby liquor stores owned by his late father, John A. Morris, and eventually opened his own store complete with a fish tank to entertain store patrons; and

**Whereas**, in announcing the award, the National Retail Federation said Bass Pro Stores "invoke the fantasy of every outdoor sportsman" and have become "a major tourist destination in virtually every store location"; and

**Whereas**, John Morris has also enjoyed recognition as the recipient of an Honorary Degree from Drury University, the Missourian Award, the Wildlife Legislative Fund of America's National Conservation Achievement Award, and the Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Award; and

**Whereas**, John Morris can take pride in knowing he has consistently given more than one hundred percent to all those activities in which he has so generously and enthusiastically participated:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join in extending our most hearty congratulations to John Morris for his selection to receive the Retail Innovator of the Year Award and in further wishing him continued success in all future endeavors; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for John L. Morris.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Bob Dixon  
District No. 140

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session,  
do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House  
Resolution No. \_\_\_\_, adopted \_\_\_\_, 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rod Jetton, Speaker